

GETTING LEGISLATION DRAFTED AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SERVICE

The Legislative Council Service (LCS) is the nonpartisan, confidential drafting and research agency for the legislature.

A legislator must request that legislation be drafted.

- A constituent, advocate, lobbyist or other individual can request legislation only if the LCS drafter receives written or verbal approval from a legislator.
- A legislator retains the decision-making authority on the legislation to be introduced; a constituent, advocate, lobbyist or other individual will not decide what will or will not be included in legislation without the legislator's express approval.
- You can make your request directly to a drafter, the director, the assistant director for drafting or the assistant director for legislative affairs.

The executive and judicial branches and other state agencies may request legislation be drafted.

- State agencies are responsible for finding a sponsor to introduce their legislation.

In making your request, you may be asked to consider numerous issues and questions. For example:

- What is the problem you are trying to solve?
- What is it about current law or statute that doesn't address the issue?
- Legislative power, particularly the power to appropriate, should not be compromised.
- Separation of powers and checks and balances are critical to our form of government.
- We may need to talk with people outside our office about the issue you want addressed, but if we do that we will not disclose your name or any information about your request without your permission. We will disclose only as much information as is necessary for us to get the information we need to fulfill your request.
- Is there anyone else you would like us to talk to or work with in completing this request?

Every effort will be made to draft legislation in a reasonable time.

- Accuracy and quality are the first priority.
- State and federal statutory and constitutional provisions must be researched.
- LCS proofreading, editing and word processing procedures provide consistency in format and style and an additional critical review of the legislation being drafted.
- A "discussion draft" can be made available to you for review and revision before preparing the legislation for introduction.

Your legislation may be picked up from the Legislative Council Service's front desk.

- Only you or someone you authorize, usually your session secretary, may pick up your legislation. At the beginning of the session, you'll be given a form to complete to provide your staff with that authorization.
- In some cases, we will deliver legislation to you on the floor, in committee or to your office.

Members-elect may immediately make requests for legislation.